

# Kittery's Road to Zero Waste

Updated Jan. 25, 2013

## Benefits of Zero Waste

### SUSTAINABILITY

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste Initiative supports generally accepted goals of sustainability - environmental protection, economic well-being, social well-being:

**Environmental protection** is enhanced by reducing hazardous and solid wastes and by reducing the need for energy generation and hydrocarbon extraction.

- Reduces waste to nature
- Reduces demand for resources and energy from nature

**Economic and social well-being** are improved by identifying inefficiencies in processes, products and services and finding cost-saving solutions.

- Waste Reduction leads to improved efficiency and lowers costs
- Reduced cost of compliance with regulations
- Green jobs and a green economy are fostered
- Waste managers become resource managers
- New products from recovered materials

### METHANE GAS REDUCTION

Landfills are one of the largest sources of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas this is 21 to 75 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In addition to reducing dependence on landfills, the Zero Waste Initiative will help reduce greenhouse gases by:

- Consuming less energy as a result of extracting, processing, and transporting fewer virgin materials
- Utilizing recycled and/or compostable content products, which releases less greenhouse gases than mining or harvesting virgin materials
- Establishing local end markets for the consumption of recovered recyclables, and compostable materials, which again reduces transportation impacts

#### FAST FACTS:

- Since 1990, Americans waste over seven million tons of cans: enough to build more than 300,000 Boeing 737 jet airplanes. (Had it been recycled, this metal would have had a market value of 7 billion dollars.)
- About three million tons of greenhouse gases are emitted annually just to replace 50 billion wasted aluminum cans.

(Source: The Container Recycling Institute, [www.container-recycling.org](http://www.container-recycling.org))